

MONTEREY NEWS

AUGUST 1998

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TOWN NEWS

The Select board has spent the better part of this past month informing citizens about the proposed renovation to the Town Hall. The project has been in the planning stage for several months, and will add 1,600 square feet to the 1200 square-foot Town Offices. The renovation has been designed to alleviate the cramped quarters that town employees must work in, and to bring the building into compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Town Hall Renovation Debated. On July 6 a public hearing was held to discuss the various grants that are being sought by the board to help defray the cost of the proposed renovation, which has been estimated to cost approximately \$380,000. Peter Lafayette, president of the Berkshire Housing Development Corporation, was present at the hearing to explain the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) which is administered by the Massachusetts Department for Housing and Community Development. The town has applied for a \$168,000 grant that would be used to make the renovated Town Offices completely accessible to handicapped individuals. These improvements include ramps, wider hallways, an elevator, and a handicapped-accessible bathroom.

Selectwoman Muriel Lazzarini also pointed out the that Town is also applying for a Rural Development Program grant, administered through the United States De-



First prize for the "I Love Monterey" Day Sand Castle Building contest was awarded to this eclectic construction by (from left) Julian, Grace, and Bridget Mendel. The builders used a combination of hard-packed sand, wet-dripped sand, pebbles and plants to enliven their entry.

© WAYNE DUNLOP

partment of Agriculture, for a possible \$50,000.

Jack Ryder questioned the need for an elevator, and architect David Bixby responded that the state building code mandates an elevator or lift when a down-stairs meeting room is being used by the public. The elevator used in the design is the smallest available, with a capacity of 2,500 pounds, and it is large enough to accommodate a stretcher if necessary. The cost of installing an elevator is approximately \$80,000; the cost of a lift, \$25,000.

Town Clerk Barbara Swann addressed the issue of document storage and expressed concern about the potential for water damage if documents are stored in the basement. Additionally, Swann questioned whether the project addresses and meets future document-storage requirements of other boards and officers, many of whom are currently using their own homes for such purpose. The State requires that towns store all

permanent records in a vault, on a concrete slab, out of the flood plain.

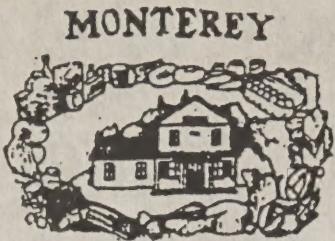
Denise Andrus pointed out what she believed to be various shortcomings of the architectural plans, including no buffer area in front of the building, specifically, no sidewalk, and inadequate handicap access. Bixby disputed the accessibility issue citing that handicap parking is planned for one side of the building.

On July 20 the board conducted a second public hearing regarding the

proposed renovation. Peter Lafayette of the Berkshire Housing Development Corporation, and architect David Bixby from Clark and Green of Great Barrington, were both on hand to review the details of the project.

Bob Heath had several questions for the board including his objections to the relocation of a water pipe belonging to the Monterey Water Company, of which he is an officer, and why the Wilson property was not being utilized for the purpose of new Town Office space. Select board member Peter Brown responded that the question of relocating the Town Offices had been debated at some length for several years, and that the expansion of the existing Town Office building has been deemed the best way to proceed.

Richard Tryon questioned the need at this time for a large construction project, and asked what the impact would be on the tax rate. Selectman Fred Chapman responded that if the Town



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receives the grants it is seeking, a possible \$150,000 to \$200,000, the tax rate would be unaffected. Chapman also stated that if the town does not receive the grant funds, the project will not go forward.

Selectwoman Muriel Lazzarini read a letter from Mary Makuc advocating the measures proposed to make the Town Offices more accessible to handicapped individuals. Pauline Nault, from the Council on Aging, pointed out that there is an ever-increasing number of senior citizens in the population who need these improvements in order to use the Town Offices. Lazzarini characterized the renovation plans as a "modest proposal," with which Bixby concurred stating that the design calls only for "space that is needed."

The question of the proposed renovation will be partially resolved at the Special Town Meeting on July 31, at 7:30 at the Monterey Firehouse. After that it's wait and see regarding the grant applications filed by the town.

Intersection Improvements. Select Board members held a site visit with officials from the Massachusetts Highway

Department at the intersection of Routes 23 and 57. The Town is seeking to make improvements to the intersection which has been the scene of several accidents. The Board was informed that there will be no engineers available to design a new intersection for at least one year, due to construction projects in north county. However the board was told to proceed with the project, and use the state highway engineers as advisors. The Board plans to use state highway funds to install a blinking light, and ask for an easement to widen the road for a better line of sight.

Town Survey Brainstorming Session. There will be a quarterly meeting of all town boards and officers on Tuesday, August 18, at 7 p.m. The upcoming town survey is on the agenda and attendance is critical. Board members and officers are asked come with questions that they would like to see on the survey. The Select Board is hoping to have someone from the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission on hand for questions regarding the survey.

— Maggie Leonard

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VETS MEMORIAL

If you haven't had a chance to visit the Monterey Veteran's Memorial at the corner of Main Road and Blue Hill Road, do stop and treat yourself to a spot of repose.

The third "stele" (a word most Montereyans are now familiar with as it refers to the granite monuments at the site) is now in place. This stele lists all those who served in the Revolutionary War, the War of 1812, the Mexican War, Indian War, and two sides are devoted to the many Union soldiers who served in the Civil War. The other two dark granite monuments, which were dedicated this year in a Memorial Day ceremony, list those who served in more recent conflicts from Korea, Vietnam, and World War I. The first stele has four sides that are inscribed with the names of World War II veterans. As you look at these monuments you see so many names that are common to this area; names of streets, and parks, and people - the names of your neighbors.

The Veteran's Memorial Committee has been working on this project for about five years and we would like to say that it is complete, but that is not quite the case. The tall and sturdy flagpole is in place and on state occasions will fly the flag that has flown over the United States Capitol, but we plan on installing a solar light so that the flag can be flown continuously. Also, since we hope that this will be a place for contemplation, we would like to have a bench or two, and there is a need for some landscaping. These last things were not in the budget so we will need additional monies to complete this project. If you can see your way clear to making an additional donation we would be most grateful, and it will help us accomplish this worthwhile commemoration to those who have served. Please send your donations to Veterans Memorial, Town Office, Main Road, Monterey, MA 01245.

— Gige O'Connell

KNOX TRAIL RUN

The Knox Trail Run, Monterey's yearly road race, made a bit of history this year as Molly Vreeland of Sandisfield cruised past all thirty six competitors to win the overall race. This is Vreeland's second year running in the Knox Trail, and she is the first woman to win the seventeen-year old race.

Regarding her win Vreeland stated that she did not see the race as "A battle of the sexes or anything like that." She went on to say that "It's a small race and I love the course. There is a dedicated group of runners who like to run it every year." Vreeland characterized her win as a "fluke." "The really strong male runners in the county were not there that day, and that's why I won. But I'm really happy about it anyway."

An accomplished athlete, Vreeland began her running career at Lenox High and continued at Williams College. This season she has won the women's division in the Berkshire Country Day School four-mile race, and the Kid's Place ten-kilometer run in Pittsfield.

Hats off to Ms. Vreeland, who shows us that some women run *ahead* of the wolves, instead of with them.

Other winners were as follows:

29 and under: Male; Dylan Shmulsky. Female; Elizabeth Hutchinson.

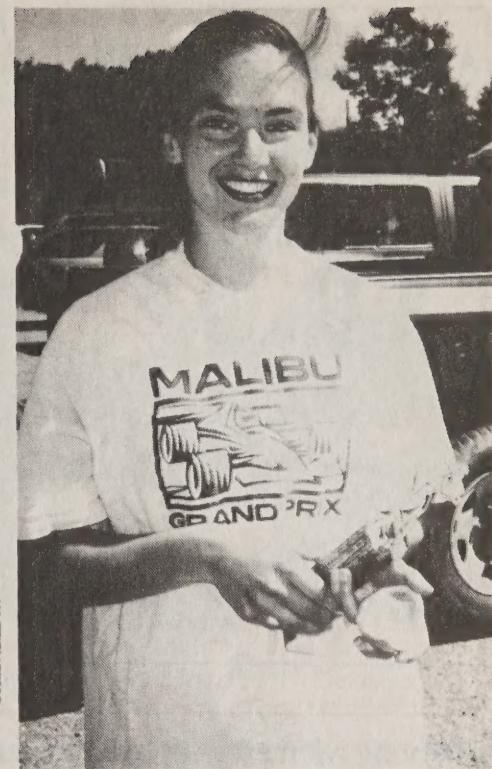
30-39: Male; Joe Clark. Female; Robin Hathaway.

40-49: Male; Leigh Curtiss. Female; Jean Whitehead.

50-59: Male; Tim Minkler. Female; Mary Ellen Gray.

60-older: Male; Richard Shook. Female; Susan Haupt.

— Maggie Leonard



Knox Trail Run winner Molly Vreeland.

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor:

Congratulations on the Susan McAllester Memorial Photo Contest! The photos in last month's Monterey News were wonderful—what a lot of talent we have in these hills. Thank you for running the contest, and thanks to all the photographers who entered. My mother would have been so pleased, as are we, her family. She would have been especially happy to see the black and white photos printed on that special grade of paper and to have the winning photos displayed in the "poetry centerfold" which was her creation when she did layout for the Monterey News.

— Bonner J. McAllester

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JAZZ FAVORITES IN SANDISFIELD

On August 15 at 8 p.m. at the Sandisfield Arts Center, Hilda Banks Shapiro & Co. will perform jazz standards featuring Gershwin, Cole Porter, and songs from the forties, fifties, and sixties.

Shapiro is well known in the Berkshires as a pianist, teacher, performer, and co-director (with daughter Miriam Rose Shapiro) of Barrington Performing Arts. As a musical child prodigy, she toured Europe and the U.S., "retiring" at age twenty-two to raise twelve children. Performers for the Saturday evening show include Hilda Banks Shapiro on piano, Miriam Rose Shapiro on violin, Steve Murray on Bass, and Jay Bradley on drums.

Tickets for the performance are ten dollars with all proceeds going to fund the restoration of the historic arts center building. Originally a Baptist Meeting House, the 1839 building served as a Synagogue for much of the nineteenth hundreds. For more information or advance tickets, call (413) 258-4904.

HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Come to the August 21 meeting of the Monterey Historical Society for a magic lantern presentation by Elizabeth Shepard titled "The Magic Lantern in Victorian America." Ms. Shepard's program will provide an overview of the history of the magic lantern in this country during the Victorian era. Dramatic readings of *The Raven* by Edgar Allan Poe and *The Bottle: A Temperance Lesson* will be given by her parents, Roy and Jana Shepard. The Society will meet at 7:30 p.m. in the General Knox room adjacent to the library.

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TRAIL DEDICATION

The Ceremony. Among many felicitous events of Monterey Day this year was the dedication ceremony for the Gould Farm Nature Walk and Wildlife Sanctuary Trail, affectionately known as Diane's Trail. Brian Snyder, executive director of the Farm, extended a welcome to the approximately 150 people gathered near the trail head. Bob Rausch, team leader of Forestry and Gardens, gave a history of the trail, which was begun back in 1995 as a memorial to his wife, Diane. Farm associate Jon Greene, the designer and builder of the kiosk, picnic facilities, bridges and bog bridges which enhance and disencumber the trail, spoke of the mission of the project. Cynthia Wood and Ed Fuller, foresters with the Department of Environmental Management, described the grant from the Massachusetts Forest Stewardship Program, which helped pay for Bonner McAllester's excellent trail guide, plus materials for structures and bridges.

Oren Rosenthal led two songs, The Rose and River Song, honoring the spirit of Diane Rausch as well as the significance of the trail.

Gould Farm served homemade muffins and home-pressed apple cider, thoroughly fueling those who chose to walk the one and one-half mile path, described by Bob Rausch as "likely the only trail in Berkshire County without a hill."

It is hoped by those who created Diane's trail that all manner of people will avail themselves of its amenities: groups of school children, the elderly, wetland aficionados, and the general public. Its well-maintained accessibility promises the possibility of cross-country ski tours in winter, as well.

The Trail. Diane's Trail begins just across the Konkapot River on Curtis Road. A kiosk marking the trailhead provides trail guides describing the viewing stations along the way. There begins an enchanting journey beside two of the energetic waterways which enliven Monterey. There are striking contrasts among sweet-smelling meadows, frothy brookside vegetation, sinuous mud, a stark, still hemlock community, and a familiar pine and deciduous forest. There

CELLIN PEARSON



"I Love Monterey" Day festivities: Bob Rausch, of Gould Farm, spoke at the dedication ceremony for the Farm's new Nature Walk and Wildlife Sanctuary.

is a resting place at the confluence of Rawson Brook and the Konkapot River where one may marvel at the merging songs of two merry streams accompanied by mosquito *obbligato*. There are opportunities to learn about local plant and animal life, as well as a chance to immerse oneself in the implacable mysteries and complex alliances of the natural world.

It is a lovingly tended trail with evidence of hard work on the part of Gould Farm staff and guests, friends from Berkshire County, and enlightened public officials. It is a fitting memorial to the quiet, rich life of Diane Rausch and a great gift to us all.

— Ellen Pearson

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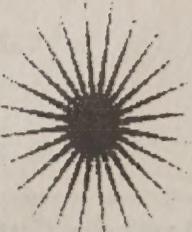
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BOOK REVIEW

Fighting Fire

by Caroline Paul, 272 pages.
St. Martin's Press, \$23.95

If you ask Monterey resident Mark Paul about his children, he might smile and tell you that his daughter Caroline is responsible for all his gray hair. And if you read her recently published book, *Fighting Fire*, you'll know why. Caroline Paul is a professional fire fighter, and was among the first group of women to join the San Francisco Fire Department.

As a news reporter in search of a good story, Ms. Paul took the fire fighter's entrance exam to investigate rumors that the department discriminated against women. It wasn't until she passed the test, attended the fire academy, and was offered a job that she realized she wanted to be a fire fighter.

In her book, Paul addresses the issues of being a female fire fighter and writes honestly about her personal experiences both in and out of the fire house. But mostly Paul writes about fighting fire, and her story is full of the drama of big city fire fighting. When the fires are out and the engines return to the station, Paul generously shares with her readers the impact each experience had on her life and those around her.

Perhaps you have been lucky enough to meet Caroline Paul (she regularly comes to Monterey to visit her father) and know first-hand what a remarkable woman she is. If not, *Fighting Fire* is a wonderful glimpse into her life that will leave you with a greater respect for fire fighters everywhere. *Fighting Fire* is available locally at the Monterey Library and The Book Loft.

— Mari Makuc

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THE BIDWELL HOUSE

Traditional Crafts and Theater

Antique baskets and an historic adventure drama will be the highlights of the month of August at the eighteenth century Bidwell House museum.

An exhibit of the museum's collection of nineteenth-century baskets will be featured as part of the house tour in August. The exhibit, titled "In and Out: The Bidwell House Baskets", will highlight many baskets from the collection which are not usually on display for the public. "In and Out" will run through August 23 and will feature a wide range of antique baskets. The exhibit is part of the regular house tour with baskets on display throughout the museum, and is free with regular house admission; \$5 for adults, \$4 seniors and students, and \$1 for children.

An in-depth lecture on the basket collection is scheduled for Saturday, August 8 with master basket maker and historian Gerri Kennedy. The lecture will focus on the materials, construction and traditional uses of the Bidwell baskets. For the collector, Gerri will explain what to look for when buying antique baskets and how to care for them. Those attending are welcome to bring baskets to be identified. The lecture will be held at 4 p.m. and admission is \$4 for adults and \$2 for children.

To round out the presentation, Gerri will conduct a basket-making workshop from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., also on August 8. The workshop will teach how to make a traditional "kitten head" pincushion basket. Participants will learn basic weaving techniques to make this Shaker style black ash basket. The muffin-size basket will be woven over a reproduction Shaker mold, then stuffed with wool and covered with velvet. Finished size is three square inches. The workshop is for all levels of ability. Admission is \$45 which includes materials. The class is limited to eight participants so make your reservations early. Those attending the workshop will get free admission to the lecture at 4 p.m.

On Wednesday, August 19 the museum will also host a workshop on mak-

ing a traditional "market" basket. Led by Berkshire basket maker Wendy Jensen, participants will learn to make a handsome and useful rectangular four-inch high by eighteen-inch long basket out of flat weave rattan with a hickory handle. Admission for this workshop is \$ 45 including materials, and it is limited to twelve participants so please make reservations early.

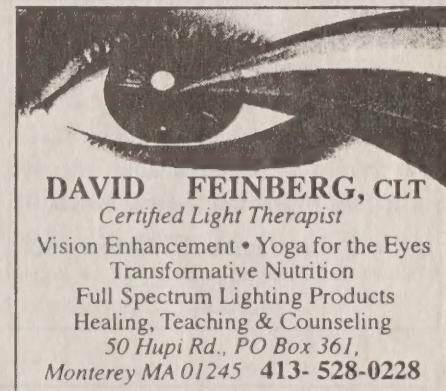
The Bidwell House theater presentation for this season is a combination of adventure and history. Reverend Bidwell's granddaughter, Mercy Partridge Whitney and her husband Reverend Samuel Whitney were among the first missionaries to travel to Hawaii. Mercy's journals were a resource for James Mitchner's novel *Hawaii*.

The original dramatization, *Talking With Mercy*, is a one-woman performance produced and directed by the Bigger Light Theater Company, which is based in Monterey. *Talking With Mercy* theatrically explores Mercy's adventures in the Pacific. It portrays Mercy, as a spiritual woman, a wife and mother, a New Englander, and a stranger amidst a beautiful and often harsh culture and climate. A 'must see' for those who appreciate the truly brave. The production will be followed by a talk by historian Kathy Page Wasiuk, who has done extensive research on Mercy Partridge Whitney and recently visited the area where she lived in Hawaii.

This is Bigger Light's fifth year presenting its work at the Bidwell House. *Talking With Mercy* is Bigger Light's second collaborative writing project exploring our New England heritage. The first collaboration created an adaptation of *The Scarlet Letter*, which won four stars at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival in Scotland. Bigger Light's work has been described as, "fresh and energetic," "original" and "the ordinary is transformed into an artful plane." With each presentation, Bigger Light Performances open up a whole new way of seeing the Bidwell House property, thus offering a delightful and inspiring evening of entertainment.

The Bidwell House is located on Art School Road in Monterey, MA. For information and reservations call 413 528-6888.

— Anita Carroll-Weldon



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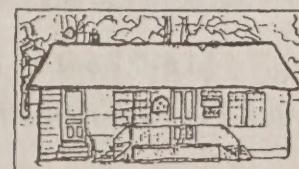
Small is a Honda, medium is a Ford Taurus,

and large is a Mac truck."

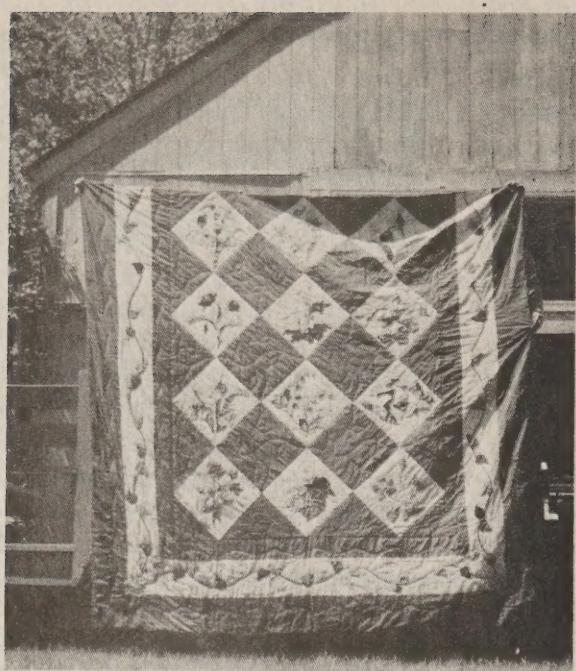
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QUILT RAFFLE



This quilt, created by the Monterey Piece-Makers, is being raffled to benefit the Meeting House renovation. Photo courtesy of Barbara Tryon.

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Tickets, which are \$2 each or six for \$10, are available on Saturday mornings in the village, or from any of the quilters. Don't miss this opportunity to own an instant heirloom that carries the generous energy of these wonderful women. The drawing will be on Saturday, September 6. Please call Barbara Tryon for more information 528-0728.

— Maggie Leonard

The local quilting group known as the Monterey Piece-Makers have completed a beautiful work of art that they have titled "A Berkshire Garden" quilt. The queen-sized quilt has a deep green background that is highlighted by white squares featuring hand-appliqued garden flowers; iris, daisy, lady slipper, and bleeding hearts, just to name a few. Surrounding the squares of flowers there is a white border with a beautiful vine that undulates around the quilt.

The Berkshire Garden quilt has been created as a fund raiser to benefit the Monterey Meeting House.

EDNA HOWLEY STOIBER

Edna Howley Stoiber passed away on May 20 at the age of 88. She was born in Rutland, Vermont, daughter of James Bernard Howley and Edna Derosia Howley. She graduated from Mount Saint Joseph Academy in Rutland and studied at Harvard, MIT, Boston University, and Mexico City College. She worked for thirteen years in the Boston area for the Boston Children's Aid Society and the Geology Department at MIT, until she married in 1941. For over fifty years she lived in Norwich, Vermont, where her home was always open to Dartmouth geology students. She was a summer resident of Monterey where members of the Stoiber family have summered for over one hundred years. An accomplished artist, she received first prize in the Vermont Federation of Women's Club 1955 Art Exhibit.

She is survived by her husband Richard, her children Christine Fahlund of Baltimore and Philip Stoiber of Seattle and grandchildren Andrew and Erik Fahlund, her sister Frances Carpenter of Fair Haven, Vermont, and half brother James Howley of Burlington, Vermont. Funeral services were held at the Norwich Congregational Church on Friday, May 22. She will be buried in Monterey, Massachusetts. The Edna Howley Stoiber Children's Book Fund has been established at Marion Cross School, Norwich, Vermont. Contributions may be made to: Norwich School District, c/o SAU 22, 45 Lyme Road, Hanover, NH 03755.

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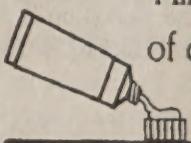
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FORGETTING THE NAME OF GOD

About once a month I visit a Sister of the Cenacle for spiritual direction. I have been doing this for three years. (Cenacle means "upper room" and refers to the place where, by tradition, Jesus ate his last meal with his disciples, and where Mary and the rest of the disciples went to await the coming of the Holy Spirit.) Our conversations over the months have covered numerous concerns. However, one subject that has appeared fairly regularly each visit has to do with truth and authority. Both of us have spent the greater portion of our lives in the Christian Church (Sister Thelma Hall will be celebrating her fiftieth year as a "religious" next year.) So we are keenly aware of how that double-sided topic has been a part of our respective journeys; she from within the Roman Catholic tradition and I from the Protestant.

Often these discussions are initiated by a current event or a personal incident. Obviously, truth and authority have to be defined or understood from within a larger perspective. The recent and tragic events in Ulster, Northern Ireland, all too sadly demonstrate the consequences of a biblical and doctrinal literalism that pits Protestant against Roman Catholic. Granted there are other cultural influences, but, for the most part, "truth and authority" have been refined in the fires of their respective religious teachings. Often the Protestant will refer to the Bible as the source of their truth and authority. The Roman Catholic will, most likely, use the teachings of the institutional church as the basis for understanding truth and authority. In both cases (I am over simplifying the issues for the sake of brevity) the dynamic person, presence and activity of God have been overwhelmed, even defined, by static forms, i.e. the Bible, doctrines, teachings, pronouncements, and institutions. In and of themselves, these forms are not "wrong." Rather, they are simply very human ways of conveying the greater and lively presence of God. But they are not God! Therein lies the heart of the issue for both me and Sister Thelma Hall.

I think that truth and authority within the Christian tradition are dynamic not static. We get into trouble when we try to concret-

ize the presence of God. James Carse, in his book *The Gospel of the Beloved Disciple*, has Jesus tell the following story.

When Moses descended with the law, the people were more interested in who gave it to him than what it commanded them to do.

"What does this God look like?" They wanted to know.

"It is a formless form and cannot be described." Moses replied.

"Tell us the name of this God," the people demanded, "so we know whom to worship."

"The name is unspeakable," Moses said. "It is a wordless name."

"Tell us," they begged. "Tell us!"

Moses stepped back from them, then cried out the wordless name in a loud voice. The people fell down in awe when they heard it...

Those who believed spoke the name to each other, but quietly, for they feared they would create more unbelief. Each generation spoke the name more quietly until it became a silent name and was forgotten.

"I cannot speak the name of God," Jesus said, "because we have forgotten it." Simon seemed puzzled. "Why would a God allow his name to be forgotten?" "It is our forgetting the name of God," Jesus said, "that makes peace among us possible." [pgs. 76 & 77]

It is not easy living with the dynamic, and often silent, as opposed to static doctrine, often dogmatically announced. All of us yearn for the comfort and security of the predictable. But, as the early Christian Church soon came to realize, the activity of God is quite unpredictable. The one predictable note struck in the early Church was God's love! It was and is that love that allows us to live without the usual trappings of comfort and security, as they are currently defined by the institutional church and, for that matter, society.

A personal story illustrates this truth. Several years ago I was asked by a friend to co-officiate a wedding at a Roman Catholic Church in western Maryland. The bride was Protestant and the groom was Roman Catholic. His mother wanted to have her brother, a retired Air Force chaplain, to officiate with me. No problem. The day before the wedding ceremony the groom's side of the family had decided, unbeknownst to me, to have the Eucharist (Holy Communion) celebrated as a part of the wedding ceremony. The day of the wedding, I was informed that only members of the wed-

ding party and the congregation who were Roman Catholic communicants would be able to receive the Eucharist! I was saddened and upset because it meant that half the wedding party, including the bride, and most of the congregation, would not be able to partake of these symbols of God's love as embodied in Jesus' life and death. I thought to myself: What a way to begin a married life! And what a travesty of Jesus' life and ministry! Where do we read of Jesus deliberately excluding anyone from his love? There were people who chose not to accept it. But, I am not aware of any time when Jesus said: "Sorry, you don't deserve God's love." I cite this personal incident, because it serves to illustrate what happens when one mistakenly believes they can presume to know that a certain interpretation of the Bible, or some doctrine, (in this case, "transubstantiation") is God's.

In the midst of this dynamic life, we are constantly needing to define truth and authority from within the context of God's love and human respect. They are the plumb lines against which all our thoughts, words, and actions must be measured. Whether at Drumcree Chapel, Portadown, Northern Ireland, within the Protestant "Bible believing" church, or before the altar of the Roman Catholic church; it is the cross, on which Jesus was executed, that bears witness to the truth and authority of God's ever-dynamic and creative love.

— Keith Snow, Pastor
Monterey United Church of Christ

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THE FAMILY NETWORK CHILDREN'S HEALTH, INC.

The Family Center is located at 940 South Main Street, Great Barrington: Call 528-0721 for more information. All activities are at the Family Center unless otherwise noted.

School vacation time is a time of adjustment for adults and children: The internet site on parenting, **family.com**, has the following suggestions: Offer A Choice. Your child has a friend over to play. You hear name-calling: "You're stupid." "You're a geek." etc. Instead of yelling an angry demand, "Just stop right now." Offer a choice. "I hear name calling. You have a choice. The name-calling must stop or your friend needs to go home. "If you hear name-calling again, send the friend home with an apology and the hope of a better play time together tomorrow. If it is not possible to send the friend home, use a time out.

Accept Your Child's Feelings. You hear your daughter insulting her stepsister, who is visiting for the weekend. Instead of labeling her with an angry edge to your voice, "You're just rude and jealous." Accept your child's feelings. "I understand it's difficult to share your dad when your stepsister comes for the weekend, but I can't allow you to be rude." If the rudeness continues, send her to her bedroom for some quiet time.

Express Your Feelings. You walk in the door exhausted from work to the

irritating sounds of your children bickering, "He ruined my pen." etc. Instead of blaming them, "You kids make me so mad. I don't work all day to come home to this bickering." Express your feelings. "I'm crabby. I've had a terrible day. When I hear bickering I get crabbiest. Get a snack. I'm taking a bath." More information is available at the Family Center in our internet article book. Call the Family Center for a copy.

The Family Network of Children's Health Program, Inc. has planned several activities for the month of August. Regular activities such as the Play and Learn playgroup, Mother-Baby exercise classes, Father-Child activities, English as Second Language classes, and Parent-Child playgroups will continue as scheduled for the summer. Special activities will include: Parent Rap Sessions, for parents of four and five year olds, to be held at 10 a.m. on August 4 and 11 respectively. Childcare will be available and preregistration is required; Licensed day care provider support group to be held August 4 at 7 p.m., with a toy exchange and arts and crafts ideas for young children; Big Brother, Big Sister Sibling Preparation class led by May Jane Sackett, R.N. at 3:30 p.m. on August 12 with preregistration required; Father-child outing to the Pittsfield Mets on August 12; Parent-Infant drop-in with infant massage led by physical therapist, Vicky Guy on August 13 at 1 p.m., preregistration required; Blueberry picking at Blue-

berry Hill Farm, Mount Washington on August 19 at 10:30 a.m., with a rain date of August 21, there is a charge for blueberries picked; Weaving with Laurel Tewes and Andy Matlow on August 20 at 10 a.m., activities suitable for children aged four, five, and six years old, preregistration is required.

The Family Network has obtained parking fee waivers for the following dates at local state parks: August 14 and 25 at York Lake, Sandisfield State Park, and August 7 and 27 at Beartown State Park, Monterey. Bring a picnic, life guard on duty, hiking available.

We are in need of more volunteers for the clothing exchange in Great Barrington. Parents can earn items of clothing by volunteering. Please call if you are interested. We are also in need of good, clean, usable clothes for children aged four, five, and six. Here is our calendar.

Drop-in times at the Great Barrington site: Mondays noon-2 p.m. and 6-8 p.m.; Tuesdays and Fridays 3-5 p.m.; Wednesdays and Thursdays 10 a.m.-noon.

Drop-in times at the Otis site, Otis Town Hall, second floor: Thursdays 10 a.m.-noon. On nice days, the playgroup will be held at the Otis Consolidated School playground.

Every Monday, Play and Learn group for three and four year olds, registration required 9 a.m.-noon.

Every Monday, 5:30 p.m. Father-Child playgroup.

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Every Tuesday, Mother-Baby Exercise class 8:30 a.m., preregistration is required. Childcare provided.

Every Tuesday, English as a Second Language, (ESL) 9:30 a.m. Childcare provided. Please call to register. Classes will not be held on August 4 and 11 due to the instructors vacation.

Every Wednesday, Parent-Child playgroup will be held at the Undermountain School playground. If rainy, the playgroup will be held at the Family Center in Great Barrington 10 a.m.-noon.

Every Thursday, Parent-Child playgroup will be held at the Family Center in Great Barrington 10 a.m.-noon. Some special events will also be planned on Thursdays.

Swimming lessons will be held at the following places: Lake Garfield, Monterey - Swim America will hold classes. Call Bill Meier at 528-6619 for more information. Southern Berkshire Youth Association will also hold swimming lessons at Lake Mansfield. Call 528-6080.

August 7, Picnic at Benedict Pond, Beartown State Park, Monterey 11 a.m. Bring a picnic lunch. Enjoy the beach and the trails. Lifeguard is on duty. Parking fee waiver for families with Family Network of Children's Health Program, Inc.

August 4, Parent Rap session, "Fabulous Fours" Childcare provided. Call to register 10 a.m.

August 4, Support group for licensed day care providers 7 p.m. Toy exchange and arts and crafts ideas for young children.

August 11, Parent Rap session "Fine Fives". Childcare provided 10 a.m. Call to register.

August 12, Big Brother, Big Sister, Sibling Preparation class led by Mary Jane Sackett 3:30 p.m. Call to register.

August 12, Father-Child outing. Mets game, Pittsfield. There will be discount tickets. Call for more information.

August 13, Parent-Infant drop-in. Baby massage led by physical therapist, Vicky Guy 2 p.m. Call to register.

August 14, Picnic at York Lake, Sandisfield State Park, Route 183, New

Marlborough 11 a.m. Bring a picnic lunch. Enjoy beach and trails. Lifeguard on duty. Parking fee waiver

August 19, Blueberry picking, Blueberry Hill Farm, Mount Washington. Rain date August 21. Meet at Mount Wash-



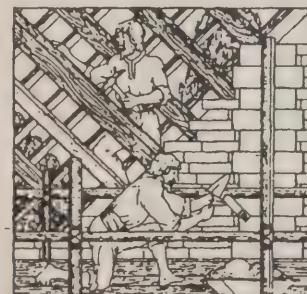
ington at 10:30 a.m. There will be a charge for blueberries picked. Bring a picnic lunch and enjoy the event.

August 20, Weaving with Laurel Tewes and Andy Matlow, artists. This activity is suitable for four, five and six year old children. Younger siblings can attend playgroup 10 a.m. Call to register.

August 25, Picnic at York Lake, Sandisfield State Park, New Marlborough, Route 183, 11 a.m. Bring a picnic. Enjoy the beach and trails. Lifeguard on duty. Parking fee waiver.

August 27, Picnic at Beartown State Park, Monterey 11 a.m. Bring a picnic. Enjoy the beach and trails. Lifeguard on duty. Parking fee waiver.

During the first week of September, The Family Centers in Great Barrington and Otis will be open for drop-in times. The Family Centers will be closed for Labor Day, September 7. In case of rain on picnic days, meet at the Family Center in Great Barrington for an indoor picnic.



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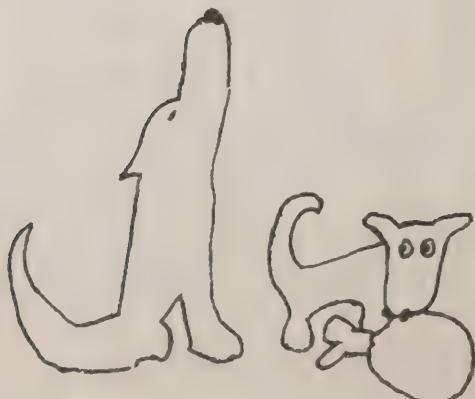
— SINCE 1982 —

REMNANTS OF YESTERYEAR

*As I wandered across the meadow
There came a fragrance rare,
The scent of old-fashioned roses,
Drifting to me on the air.
Then, as I ascended the hillside
And neared the crest of the knoll
I saw them blooming before me
At the edge of an old cellar hole.

Stooping I plucked a soft petal
And inhaled it's fragrance sweet;
Then I felt a reluctance in leaving
Those beautiful flowers at my feet.
I stood there a moment and pondered...
Perhaps a century ago
Someone had planted here roses
That still bloom by the old cellar hole.*

— Eleanor Kimberly



A SUDDEN DREAM

*There are times,
When I look at her
I am struck by a vision
Of a future I cannot guide.
A helpless comprehension
Of love, loss, hope, and fear
My instincts stumble in confusion,
As in that perfect moment
I see my princess
As another man's queen*

*Now as I watch her
Spilled in sleep.
Soft, slack, shining
Beautiful innocence.
I know,
Too soon,
I will understand nothing.
And what I have seen
Is an omen of impotence,
A sign of passage.
I in my shadows,
She in her sun.*

*In the dark, to the night
I wish for her
And I swear my wishes
Will stand forever
Like stones on the moor
Ancient, upright, soothing,
A cracked, weathered refuge
Of certainty*

— Nick Hardcastle

LEOPOLD

*Leopold lived
near Nymphenburg*

*his flaccid hands
often joined palely
above his ancient seated knees
his nose rose
in rococo splendor
whiffing the memory
of creaking crinolines
that twirled slowly
to the waltzes of his arid past—*

*Ah, it is the delicacy of life
balanced against
those devilish clever
assumptions of the intellect!*

*He sips vermouth
and waiting for the
passion of his wasted youth
surveys the while
the gilded walls, the parquetry floors.*

*The sinuously carved-arbored doors
then open to admit
the widow Charlotte aged
now sixty-two*

*Their eyes meet and flash
with delayed admissions
he takes her hand
and speaks of music
by the band
in the park that afternoon
golden evening airs
hang in the ivory room.*

*On the ceiling
cherubs weep for Charlotte
as before*

*roses sigh
on the little gilt table*

*they chat and murmur on—
what else can they do?*

— A.O. Howell

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THRILLS AND CHILLS WITH DODDER

Like the mother of any thirteen-year old, I find myself stretched these days in ways I never expected. So far these stretches have felt, um, "healthy." I haven't broken anything or become permanently lame, and the little ache I feel sometimes reassures me that my attitude has not atrophied. It gets yanked this way and that, and generally it bounces back to something like my same old self.

Sudi likes thriller movies about creatures from other planets. Recently I went with her to see *The X-Files* and I am still reeling. Those creatures were slimy and mysterious and up to no good. I could never figure out what was happening most of the time—how something gooey and black could drift up a little kid's body into his eyeballs and then in some related form cast great arthropod shadows on a wall and climb in a window to poke somebody and make him into a zombie with white skin, blank eyeballs, and wicked dark circles around his eyes. Then there were grim unsmiling men (or were they even human?) who appeared to be bee-keepers and corn farmers in the desert. In my opinion this was an unlikely spot for anyone to take up homesteading or market gardening. I would have recommended nomadic camel tending.

It's easy to poke fun now, at something which gave me the genuine creeps while I was watching it. My stretch in this case was to figure out what was in *The X-Files* for Sudi, for me, for my many movie-loving pals who dig the series. I needed to suspend my horror and my judgment long enough to learn something.

We recently spent three days camping in Maine with some friends. One night Bill came back to the campsite saying he had

found something "like a snake" in the driveway back behind his car. He said it was dead, he thought, if indeed it was a snake and had ever been alive, and that something seemed to be coming from its body, perhaps intestines? Bill suggested I might like to have a look at this.



The botanical X Files: "Scully, you've got to believe me...!"

I went hopping out there and found the unfortunate garter snake. She was dead—most likely hit by the car—and what was coming from her body was a perfect tiny garter snake, also dead. The next morning I opened her up and found twelve little snakes inside. Bill watched with a mixture of horror and fascination. During the night he had had the bad luck to come out of his tent and put his hand on the stump where I had stashed the snake for the night. Having recently seen *The X-Files*, I know just how he felt. He was not raised handling snakes and opening up road-kill to see what's inside. Later that day he came into camp and said, "Bonner, I've found something interesting, like a big ball of fur sort of, and I'll tell you where it is if you promise not to put it right outside my tent."

I went looking for the ball of fur, which turned out to be coyote scats much washed and dried, and while I was out along this productive long driveway I had my own *X-Files* experience, in the world of botany. That is, I hoped it was botany.

At first glance I thought I was seeing a

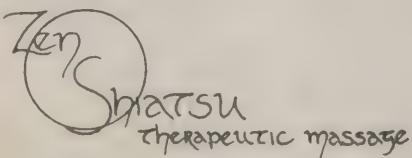
place where someone had tossed out a tangled mass of orange and yellow fishing line. It lay draped over the goldenrod and jewel-weed along the driveway, which looked like it had grown up through the tangles. Closer examination showed this to be some sort of marvelous vine, with long graceful tendrils reaching this way and that, winding around anything they came to. They were slim and delicate, breaking easily. I couldn't find any leaves, or blossoms, or even any roots to this thing. Where did it begin? How did it grow? It had no green parts, no chlorophyll. And the main underlying dramatic drumbeat to this movie, for me, was that I had never ever in my long life of observing the natural world, seen this orange tangle-plant before!

I picked a piece of jewel-weed, which was all wound around with orange binder vine, and got out my hand lens. Where the binder touched the jewel-weed, little bumps like finger nubs grew from the vine and penetrated the jewel-weed. These dangerous nubs seemed only to grow where the vine came in contact with some other plant. Otherwise, the vine was smooth, forming those searching tendrils. I realized this was a parasitic plant, and suddenly the creatures of *The X-Files* and *The Body Snatchers* did not seem confined to the movie theater.

My new thriller plant turned out to be "dodder," also called cornsilk, devil's guts, devil-vine, hellbind, lover's vine, strangletare, and strangleweed. My books tell me it is common, but I'd never seen it before. I took some from Maine, to show a botanist friend in Portsmouth on the way home. She identified it right away and asked me not to drop any of it in her yard. She put it in her wastebasket and I did not bring any home, since Monterey has been dodder-free all these years (as far as I know).

As for me, I am stretched in a way which is unsettling, thrilling. If I didn't know about dodder, for heaven's sake, there is not telling what is waiting around the bend for me next, for all of us. Although my friend Bill is a movie fan, he found *The X-Files* to be unengaging. It was the snake on the stump that spoke to him last week, and for me, it was the parasitic dodder.

— Bonner J. McAllester



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WILDLIFE SURVEY

This is a year of special abundance in the plant world. Now, in late July it's daisies and Queen Anne's Lace along the roads and in the fields, elderberry flowers, especially creamy-white, wherever there's moisture, wild parsnip (four to five inches tall, yellow-green umbels) in swampy places; wild roses, too, and purple loosestrife and fringed loosestrife (yellow).

More than any other kind of wildlife, plants have been carried everywhere by humankind; wortmasters (and wortmistresses!) have studied their uses, real and fancied, and bestowed an infinity of names on the same species, so that ethnobotany reveals medical, religious and social customs, from region to region. Verbain (*Verbena*) is also wild hyssop, Herb-of-the-Cross, Berbine, Holy-herb, Enchanter's plant, Juno's tears, Pigeon-grass, Lightning plant, Simpler's (herb gatherer's) joy, etc., testifying to the plant's virtues as a love-philter, bridal token, protection from witches, or lightning, general heal-all because it grew on Mount Calvary, to name a few!

Of course insects outnumber all other wildlife. Beetles, alone, make up one third of all plants and animals so far identified. But plants excel in the wild variety of folk nomenclature.

Wild plants in bloom. June 19: bladder campion, sarsaparilla, celandine, nettle, daisy fleabane, pipsissewa, forget-me-not, water knotweed, cow lily, watercress, milfoil, mountain laurel, sheep laurel, Tartarian honeysuckle, meadow pink; June 28: grey twigged dogwood, orange hawkweed, Indian pipe, twin flower, sorrel, yarrow, chestnut, cattail; June 30: flowering raspberry; July 1: blue curls, wild rose, ragged robin, Canadian lily, water lily, meadow sweet; July 5: red baneberry, sweet pepper; July 9: swamp candle, meadow rue; July 15: deadly nightshade, cinquefoil, purple loosestrife, Joe Pye weed, hardhack, ground blackberry, mad-dog skullcap, golden Alexander, bee balm, wood lily, jewelweed. Remember, these are "common" names, and any of the above may have a dozen, or three dozen other names, most of which are applied to other species as well, by other namers!

Milfoil: these colonies are spreading rapidly from the small areas reported

last month. The delicate white blossoms hover over a Sargasso Sea of enmeshed slender stems.

Insects: The mosquitoes and gnats share in the abundance mentioned above. Humans suffer and apply their various preventives and remedies and the fly-catchers, dragonflies, and swallows rejoice.

Mammals, from large to small. Dale Duryea heard of a bear on Sandisfield Road, the week of July 13; he saw four good-sized whitetail bucks standing in the Tryon field across from his house; he's had several calls about raccoons getting into mischief with their clever hands: one opened a garbage can on a Brett Road porch in spite of a close fitting cover plus bungee cords for security; a couple of bobcats and a few coyotes have been spotted; beavers on Sylvan Road got discouraged more easily than usual and gave up the struggle when an inconvenient dam there was opened up for the second time: Dale thinks the hot weather has made them less active than they normally are; there are otter signs on the banks of the Konkapot under the Curtis Road bridge, and beaver tracks, too.

Three deer, a doe, a half-grown young one, and a fawn, were seen by Beryl and David McAllester, crossing Hupi Road, July 3; a fox and a coyote were seen on the McAllester property July 8 and 9, respectively. Beavers are active in the pond at the east end of Lake Garfield harvesting alders and keeping the dam in good repair. One was grunting in the big house in the marshy lake border west of the dam at dawn, July 18, then gnawing on a resonant stick, then swam out to eye the intrusive canoeer trespassing there. There are at least two dams on Peppermint Brook as the beavers enlarge their water-rights there. Eleanor Kimberley reported July 9 that a woodchuck is living under their shop.

Herons are much in evidence on Lake Garfield singly and in groups of up to four or five. They seem tamer than usual: one seems to wait for Harlan [Lanny] Lanoue at the pine point of Parker's Cove and follow him down the lake when he's out sculling early in the morning. A pair circled close over David McAllester at the same hour, July 13. Perhaps in the latter case there were some young ones, unseen, near by, out for a hunting lesson.

Eleanor Kimberley reported on July 3

that she found a dead chestnut sided warbler on her lawn, with no clue as to how it got there. There is a wren in and out of her birdhouse, but apparently not nesting there but one is nesting up the road at Ron and Beverley's house. Tree swallows are having a second brood. They are in residence every year, then they go for a couple of years and now...

Another bear. Towards the end of June there was a bear right up on the property at Mike and Lisa Erkiinen's home. It roamed around with a tent and seemed to be in a friendly, playful mood.

Wild turkeys. A hen turkey with four or eight chicks has a regular beat, crossing from the Tryon field on Route 23 to the Duryea property, between four and five every afternoon. As of mid-July the chicks were still small; it may be that the late spring delayed the hatch. The hen female was having a hard time of it at the McAllester house in early July. She got up and shook out her feathers in a dust cloud was lit up by the sun. A day or two later she...

Garter snakes were seen by the Duryea boys, July 17, in the Montague School, and at the east end of Lake Garfield by Mick Burns. At the school they got out of the stone wall by the road and went up into the grass on the bank above.

—David P. McAllester

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REP RAP

State Program Preserves Agricultural Heritage. In early July, I had the pleasure of attending a celebration on Baldwin Hill in Egremont to recognize the protection and preservation of 194 acres of farm land located on this treasured site in Berkshire County. Over 300 people attended the picnic where Jay Healy, the Commissioner of the Massachusetts Department of Food and Agriculture, announced that the Berkshire Natural Resources Council (BNRC) had purchased the land under the state's Agricultural Preservation Restriction (APR) program. The state's contribution will help offset the funds the BNRC paid for the property last November. This important partnership will guarantee the agricultural integrity of the land forever.

The APR program was established by the legislature in 1977 to protect farmland from non-agricultural development. Through the APR, the state purchases the development rights of agricultural acreage. The farmer still owns the land and retains the right to sell it or pass it down, but it is restricted for agricultural use only in perpetuity.

Berkshire County land owners have had long standing and positive ties to the state's APR program. In fact, in January of 1998 the generosity of Berkshire property owners was heralded in a special recognition ceremony by Trudy Coxe, State Secretary of Environmental Affairs. The gathering, held at the beautiful home of Lew and

Joyce Scheffey, honored the five donations of farm land located throughout Berkshire County. Among these recent contributions include donations of land by Bob Thieriot, Dick Tryon, the Monterey Land Trust, and Lew and Joyce Scheffey. These contributions make up a significant portion of the 1,700 acres of farmland preserved through the APR program in the Fiscal Year 1998 alone. Furthermore, land owners in Berkshire County have done their part to preserve our beautiful landscapes and historic ties to family farms.

We should be grateful for these donations as open space is a treasured jewel in Berkshire County, and we need to protect it from development that is not appropriate. The partnership forged by the state, municipalities, non-profits and private property owners signifies an important commitment to land preservation so that future generations may enjoy it for years to come.

— Rep. Christopher J. Hodgkins

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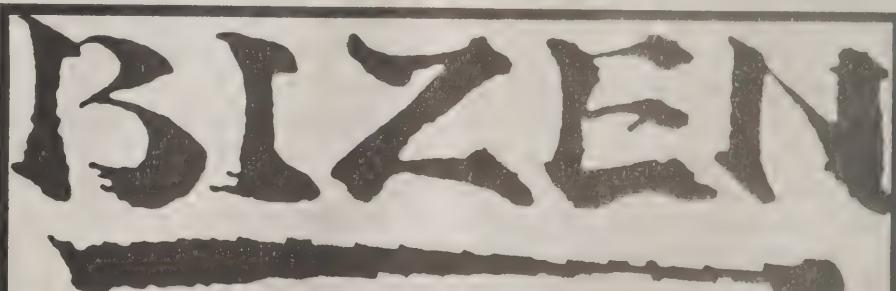
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SENATOR SAYS

This month, I am pleased to report the results of a survey I sent out regarding the impact of education reform on our cities and towns. Eighteen municipal officials responded to the survey, and provided sound ideas about how the education reform laws might be improved.

Effect on Municipal Budgets. One of the goals of the survey was to determine how the demands of ed. reform affected municipal budgets. In most cases, school budgets constitute around half of the municipal budget. In some towns, the school budget is over fifty percent of the municipal budget. For example, in Richmond most revenue increases have to be diverted to the schools, which squeezes other parts of the budget. Officials from Heath and Adams noted that, while increased school spending requirements sometimes exceeds local revenue growth, the state has provided additional funding to fill the gap. Economic expansion has helped many towns keep up with the required increases in school spending, though some officials are concerned that an economic downturn would make these requirements oppressive.

State Aid. The 1993 Education Reform Act overhauled the state aid system, basing state financial support on an evaluation of a town's ability to support its schools. This senate district has lower per capita income and property wealth than many other areas of the state, which entitles most school districts in this area to more aid under the Ed Reform program. The percentage of state aid to school spending in the district rose from 41.82% to 47.57% from FY 92-97. Thirteen of the eighteen towns that responded to the survey have seen the amount of money they receive from the state increase. Only Adams found that aid had not increased; the remaining four towns did not respond to this question. The level of increase varies from town to town, with some noting marginal increases. While municipal officials generally believe that the state has given a suitable amount of aid to towns, the stability of state aid from year to year has been problematic.

Regional Transportation. The issue that generated the most responses from officials was the funding of regional transportation. Municipal officials often remind

me of an unfulfilled promise from the state that regional school transportation would be paid for entirely out of state funds. Towns in regional districts had to pay thirty-five percent of the cost of transporting students last year, and this takes a significant amount of money from operating budgets. Tolland has spent over \$600,000 out of local funds to make up the difference between state funds and regional transportation costs since 1991. Otis and Monterey were forced to cut down on bus runs, which limited extra-curricular activities. I am pleased to report that after two years of advocacy, we have worked out a formula to fully fund regional school transportation over the next three years. A plan for one hundred percent state funding was included in the FY98 and FY99 budgets, and the burden of providing local funding for transportation should be eliminated over a three-year time period. Thank you for helping to push for this funding.

Special Education. Special Education costs were a subject of significant concern for municipal officials who responded to the survey. A key concern is the unpredictability of SPED costs, which can change significantly when a child who requires SPED moves into a school district shortly before a new school year begins. In Plainfield, for example, unexpected SPED costs were the source of two years of deficit spending. Savoy has also experienced financial burdens due to SPED costs: its FY99 budget includes a \$57,300 increase in SPED cost. Many officials list SPED reform among their top four concerns and advocate examining the systems in other states. Under the 1993 Ed. Reform Act,

SPED costs are not factored into the Foundation Budget or State Aid calculations.

Comments from Officials: Education Reform Pros and Cons.

Pros:

- With a growing economy, Ed. Reform is great.
- If programs like transportation are fully funded, problems will be minimal.
- School choice generally works well.
- Increase in Chapter 70 aid led to expanded teaching staff and academic programs.
- The Department of Education changed the practice of using 1994 as a base year for aid, and this will make aid allocation more realistic and reflect economic changes.

Cons:

- The process needs to be simplified.
- Using local contributions as a base for assessment in a regional district creates different per pupil costs.
- There is still too little aid in some areas. Non-operating districts like New Ashford feel under-compensated.
- The costs could be oppressive with a shrinking tax base.

I would like to extend my thanks to all the officials who took the time to complete the survey. While the overall impact of Ed. Reform appears to be positive, you highlighted several areas where progress can still be made. I will incorporate your information and ideas into my discussions with my colleagues when we re-address education reform next year. Please feel free to contact my office with any other questions or ideas.

— Senator Andrea F. Nuciforo, Jr.

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THE OBSERVER

June 25 - July 25

High temp. (7/16)	87.4°
Low temp. (7/6)	49.5°
Wind chilled low temp. (7/6)	44.6°
Avg. high temp.	76.7°
Avg. low temp.	57.3°
Avg. temp.	67°
High bar. press. (7/5)	30.17"
Low bar. press. (6/30)	29.40"
High wind gust (7/11)	29 m.p.h.
Precipitation- rain	5.16 inches on 14 days

PERSONAL NOTES

Congratulations to **Ellen Hamm**, who was Mount Everett's Salutatorian for the graduating class of 1998. Other Monterey residents who graduated from local high schools this year included **Jeremy Vallianos** who graduated from Mount Everett, and **Bethany Sadlowski** and **Careth Leining** who were among those graduating from Monument Mountain. On June 18, **Agnes Mulroy's** grandson, **John**, graduated from Coral Gables High School in Florida. After graduation, he went to France to attend the World Cup Finals, and, on August 15, will report for soccer practice at the University of South Carolina where he plans to major in business. Good luck to all of you as you go out into the world, and don't forget to let us know from time to time how you are doing.

On July 7, **Maggie Clawson, Emma Kales, and Deirdre and Ann Higgins** returned to Monterey after spending a tiring but wonderful twelve days in Europe with the Berkshire Children's Chorus. The trip began with three days in Straubing, Germany, staying with host families, and seeing all that Pittsfield's sister city and its surroundings have to offer. The visit to Straubing began with a civic reception and coincided with the city's annual festival, which added to the fun. The chorus then went to Tuscany for the International Children's Choral Festival in Florence. This was a wonderful experience, during which the children worked hard, met children from other parts of America and Europe, and, after singing in several informal concerts, ended the week with a gala concert in the Sala Cinquecento in Florence's Palazzo Vecchio. In that concert, **Jean Ashworth**

Bartle, director of the Festival, combined all five choruses attending the festival for a performance accompanied by the Accademia San Felice Orchestra. It was splendid, and an experience neither the performers nor the audience will soon forget. The next day the choruses traveled to Rome to sing at Sunday Mass in St. Peter's Basilica. Monday was spent sightseeing, and, early the next morning, the bags were loaded on the bus for the trip to the airport and home. All in all, it was a wonderful experience for all those involved.

Congratulations **Chip Makuc**. Dr. and Mrs. Joseph E. Hennessey of Lancaster, Pa., announce the engagement of their daughter, **Kathleen L. Hennessey** to **Christopher Makuc**. A history teacher at Oakcrest School in Washington, Miss Hennessey graduated in 1989 from Hempfield High School, and in 1993 from James Madison University. Mr. Makuc is a senior consultant for Peterson Consulting in Washington. He graduated from Mount Everett Regional School in 1988, and from Boston University in 1992. The couple plan an August 8 wedding at St. Richard's Church in Manheim, Pa.

Happy Birthday on August 2 to **Chelsey Smith**, on August 4 to **Gabriella Makuc**, on August 5 to **Katie Kopetchny**, on August 6 to **David McAllester**, on August 7 to **Ann Burns Smith**, on August 9 to **Patrick Sheridan**, on August 15 to **Katie and Sarah Olds**, on August 20 to **Michelle Grotz and Zachary Transport**, on August 24 to **Amanda Thorn and Henri Morrison**, on August 26 to **Ann McGinley**, and on August 30 to **Rick Mielke**.

Anniversary wishes go out on August 19 to **Tom and Jane Thorn**, on August 22 to **Bill and Maureen Meier**, on August 23 to **Stefan and Stephanie Grotz**, on August 28 to **Tom Morrison and Pam Gauthier**, and on August 29 to **Jeff and Hannah Moran**.

We enjoy hearing your news, and passing on birthday and anniversary greetings. If you have any you would like to share, please drop me a line at P.O. Box 351, Monterey, MA 01245, or give me a call at 528-6691, if possible, before the twelfth of each month. If you prefer to use e-mail, my address is higgins@vgnet.net. Thank you so much.

— Ann Higgins

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CALENDAR

Tuesday, August 4, Nature Walk with Bonner McAllester. 9-10:30 a.m. at Brewer Pond. Meet at the new dam on Beartown Mountain Road. All ages \$5.

Saturday, August 8, Vicki True returns to the Roadside Store to fill the evening air with song and soul. Music starts at 6 p.m. Grilled picnic foods sold all evening. Suggested \$4 donation at the door.

Saturday, August 8, Basket-making workshop; make a traditional Shaker style "Kitten Head" pincushion basket. For all levels of ability. 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Admission: \$45 materials included. Limited to eight - reservations required. Art School Road, Monterey, MA. For info and reservations call 413 528-6888.

Saturday, August 8, Lecture on the Bidwell House basket collection. Master basket-maker and historian Gerri Kennedy will discuss materials, construction, and use of these antique baskets. Bring baskets for her to identify, 4 p.m. Admission: adults \$4, children \$2. This is free for those who take the prior workshop. Art School Road, Monterey, MA. For info call 413 528-6888.

Monday, August 10, Nature Walk with Bonner McAllester 9-10:30 a.m. at Diane's Trail. Meet at the parking place on Curtis Road. All ages \$5.

Tuesday, August 11, Nature Walk with Bonner McAllester 9-10:30 a.m. on the Mt. Hunger Trail of the Monterey Preservation Land Trust. Meet at the trailhead. All ages \$5.

Friday, August 14 and

Saturday, August 15, Talking With Mercy, a one-woman dramatization of adventure and history. Based on the adventures of Mercy Partridge Whitney, one of the first missionaries to Hawaii and Rev. Bidwell's granddaughter. Presented by Bigger Light Theater Company. 6-6:45 p.m. each evening Admission: Adults \$ 10 , children \$5 Art School Road, Monterey, MA. For Info call 413 528-6888

Monday, August 17, Nature Walk with Bonner Mcallester 9-10:30 a.m. at Brewer Pond. (Same as August 4th, above.)

Monday, August 17, 10 a.m.-noon, South County La Leche League meets at the

Guthrie Center, Great Barrington. Free advice and support for breast-feeding. For question and directions call Maureen 413-528-6619

Tuesday, August 18, Free Blood Pressure Clinic from 9-10:30 a.m. Administered by the Visiting Nurses Association.

Tuesday, August 18, Quarterly meeting of all town boards and officers, 7 p.m., Town Offices, Main Road. The town survey will be discussed.

Wednesday, August 19, Basket-making workshop: Market basket. Make a handsome & useful rectangular market-style basket. For all levels of ability. 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Admission: \$45 includes materials Limited to twelve - reservations required. Art School Road, Monterey, MA For info and reservations call 413 528-6888.

Saturday, August 22, Square and contradancing 8:30-11:30 p.m., at the Sheffield Grange, Route 7, Sheffield, MA. Music by Mountain Laurel, call-

ing by Joe Baker. All dances are taught and beginners and children are welcome. Refreshments served at intermission. Adults \$5, children \$2. Information 413-528-9385 or 518-329-7578

Friday, August 28, Luncheon hosted by the Monterey Council on Aging, at noon, in the basement of the Town Hall, Main Road. Summer residents are cordially invited to join our group.

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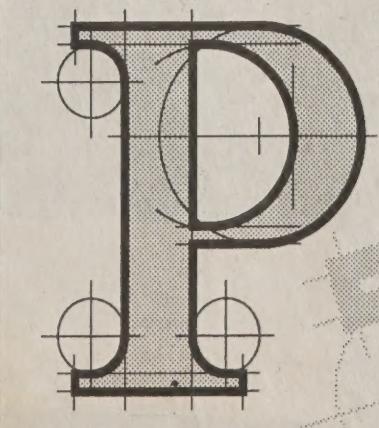
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Our editorial address is *Monterey News*, P.O. Box 9, Monterey, MA, 01245. We invite letters, articles, drawings, and photographs from readers. Please send submissions (on Macintosh disk if possible) by the fifteenth of the month before publication, addressed to the attention of the Editor. Send any change of address, or initial request to receive the

News by mail (free!) to Barbara Tryon, Business Manager. We will typeset a text-only ad for your Monterey-based business, service, or event, or advertisers may submit an ad with graphics on a Macintosh formatted disk. Address your request for advertising rates and further information to the Editor, or telephone her in Monterey at 413-528-1170.

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Contributions from local artists this month: Katie Olds pgs. 11 & 12, Bonner McAllester pg. 14.

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